

served as Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets forth fundamental human rights including the right to life, liberty, and security of person; freedom of religion; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of assembly; self-government through free elections; freedom from slavery and torture; the right to a fair trial and to equality before the law; presumption of innocence until proved guilty; the right not to be subjected to retroactive laws; freedom of movement within one's state and freedom to leave or return to it; the right of asylum; the right to a nationality; the right to found a family; the right against arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence; the right to own property; to social security and to work; the right to form and join trade unions; the right to an adequate standard of living, to education, and to rest and leisure; and the right to participation in the cultural life of the community;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become the most widely accepted statement identifying human rights and is referred to in resolutions and covenants adopted by numerous international organizations, in multilateral and bilateral treaties, in national constitutions, and in local laws and decrees; and

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, though it is not a treaty or a binding international agreement, it is "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the fundamental human rights enunciated half a century ago in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which are a reflection of the fundamental civil and human rights that are enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and in the United States Constitution, and in particular in the Bill of Rights;

(2) expresses the determination to work for the implementation of and observance of international human rights and international human rights agreements; and

(3) urges the government leaders of all nations, representatives of private international human rights organizations, business and labor leaders, local government officials, and all Americans to use the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an instrument to promote tolerance, understanding, and greater respect for human rights.

Agreed to October 21, 1998.

Oct. 21, 1998
[H. Con. Res. 224]

CHILD ABDUCTION—INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Whereas many children in the United States have been abducted by family members who are foreign nationals and living in foreign countries;

Whereas children who have been abducted by an estranged father are very rarely returned, through legal remedies, from countries that only recognize the custody rights of the father;

Whereas there are at least 140 cases that need to be resolved in which children have been abducted by family members and taken to foreign countries;

Whereas, although the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at the Hague on October 25, 1980, has made progress in aiding the return of abducted children, the Convention does not address the criminal aspects of child abduction, and there is a need to reach agreements regarding child abduction with countries that are not parties to the Convention; and

Whereas decisions on awarding custody of children should be made in the children's best interest, and persons who violate laws of the United States by abducting their children should not be rewarded by being granted custody of those children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress urges international cooperation in working to resolve those cases in which children in the United States are abducted by family members who are foreign nationals and taken to foreign countries, and in seeing that justice is served by holding accountable the abductors for violations of criminal law.

Agreed to October 21, 1998.

JOANNE CHESIMARD AND OTHER FUGITIVES— RETURN FROM CUBA

Oct. 21, 1998
[H. Con. Res. 254]

Whereas on May 2, 1973, Joanne Chesimard and 2 friends were stopped in their vehicle by New Jersey State Troopers James Harper and Werner Foerster on the New Jersey Turnpike;

Whereas while being questioned, Ms. Chesimard and the driver opened fire with automatic pistols striking Trooper Werner Foerster twice in the chest and Trooper James Harper in the left shoulder;

Whereas the suspects then turned Trooper Foerster's own weapon on him firing an additional two bullets into his head execution style;

Whereas this heinous and premeditated act resulted in the tragic death of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster;

Whereas Trooper Foerster left behind a wife, Rose Foerster, and family;

Whereas in 1977, after a 6 week trial, a jury found Ms. Chesimard guilty of first-degree murder for the slaying of Trooper Foerster, a respected New Jersey State Trooper;

Whereas as a result of this conviction Ms. Chesimard was sentenced to life in a New Jersey State prison;

Whereas in 1979, Ms. Chesimard broke free from a maximum security cell at the Reformatory for Women in Clinton, New